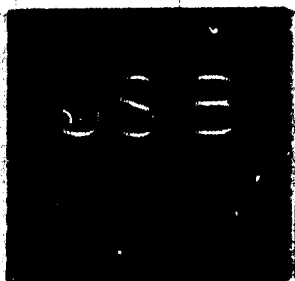


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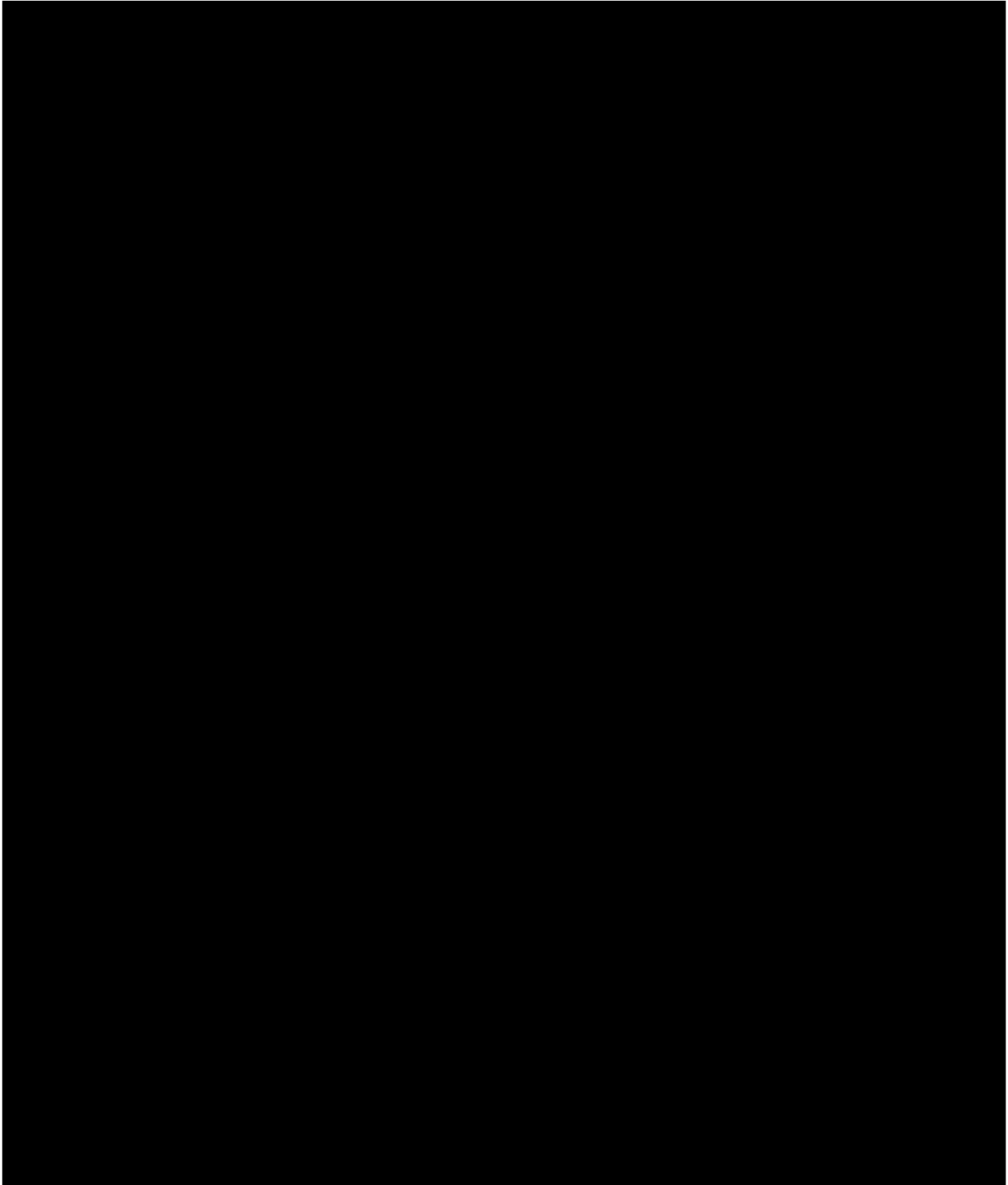
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National Intelligence Bulletin

August 12, 1975

PORTUGUESE TIMOR

The power grab staged by pro-independence Timorese leaders over the weekend is bound to heighten anxiety in Jakarta that Timor will become a threat to stability and security in the Indonesian Archipelago.

members of the Timor Democratic Union Party, an anti-communist, pro-independence group, led the power grab against Portuguese authorities in Dili. On August 9 and 10, party members occupied communications centers, the airport, and the police station and laid siege to the military headquarters. It is not clear, however, whether they were seeking to take full control of the government.

There has been no reaction as yet from local Portuguese troops, most of whom were apparently out of the capital conducting political education missions in the countryside. The Portuguese governor met with the dissidents, but so far there has been no word about their demands or intentions.

Over the past year, Indonesia has organized a large propaganda operation designed to assure the peaceful absorption of Timor into Indonesia. As part of this effort, have actively courted the leaders of the pro-independence groups, seeking to convince them that Timor cannot be viable as an independent state and that they should join forces with Jakarta.

The events in Timor this weekend evidently caught the Indonesians by surprise and are likely to reawaken their fears about the prospects for an unstable or anti-Indonesia regime in Dili. Jakarta may conclude that the power grab was launched as a pre-emptive move against pro-Indonesia forces in the colony. Reacting to coup reports, Indonesia's security chief publicly warned on August 11 that Jakarta will not allow a situation to develop in Timor that threatens Indonesia.

Indonesian border units in the Timor area have been placed on alert. President Suharto's military advisers may well advocate an immediate invasion before the situation in Timor gets out of hand.

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